

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 05880 191259Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01 DRC-01 /136 W

----- 072355

R 191110Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 006

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 010

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 5880

BEIRUT PASS TO USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, XF

SUBJ: ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE HELD IN CORDOBA

SUMMARY: ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE JUST HELD IN CORDOBA  
AND PROMOTED MAINLY BY GOS, EGYPTIAN GOVT, AND SPANISH  
CHURCH WAS NOTABLE FOR VARIOUS APPEALS FOR GREATER MOSLEM-  
CHRISTIAN RELATIONS AND DIALOGUE AND FOR ITS FULL-FLEDGED  
SUPPORT OF ARAB AND PALESTINAIAN OBJECTIVES IN MIDDLE EAST.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 05880 191259Z

END SUMMARY.

1. FROM SEPT 12-16, AN ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN THE ANDALUZIAN CITY OF CORDOBA, ONE-TIME CAPITAL OF CALIPHATE OF CORDOBA AND ONE OF MOST HISTORIC CENTERS OF MOORISH LEGACY IN SPAIN.

2. THIS CONFERENCE, REPORTEDLY FIRST EVER HELD OF ITS KIND, WAS ATTENDED BY NUMEROUS MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH CLERGY AND PRESIDED OVER BY BISHOP CIRARDA OF CORDOBA, AND WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY CERTAIN FOREIGN CATHOLIC CLERGY RESIDENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES, NOTABLY CARDINAL DUVAL OF ALGIERS AND THE BISHOP OF ORAN. GOS WAS REPRESENTED BY DIRECTORS GENERAL FROM MFA AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM, AND PROVINCE AND CITY OF CORDOBA WERE REPRESENTED BY SOME OF THEIR PRINCIPAL LOCAL OFFICIALS.

3. ARAB COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE INCLUDED EGYPT, ALGERIA, LEBANNON, IRAQ, SAUDI ARABIA, AND JORDAN. THERE REPORTEDLY ALSO WAS A PALESTINIAN DELEGATION PRESENT. MOST HIGH RANKING DELEGATE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE WAS DR. ABDEL AZIZ KAMEL, WHO IS BOTH VICE PRES AND MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS IN EGYPT. THE IMPORTANT EGYPTIAN DELEGATION ALSO INCLUDED AN EGYPTIAN CHRISTIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN, ALBERT BARSOUM, WHO ALSO REPORTEDLY HAS MINISTERIAL RANK IN EGYPTIAN GOVT. MANY ARAB DELEGATIONS WERE HEADED BY THEIR COUNTRIES' AMBASSADORS IN MADRID.

4. SYMBOLIC AND EMOTIONAL HIGHLIGHT OF CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE ON FRIDAY, SEPT 13, WHEN MOSLEM CONFEREES WERE ALLOWED TO HOLD MOSLEM PRAYER SERVICE IN CORDOBA'S FAMED MOSQUE-CATHEDRAL. THIS WAS REPORTEDLY FIRST TIME IN SEVEN CENTURIES, I.E., SINCE 1236 WHEN HUGE CORDOBA MOSQUE WAS CONVERTED INTO CHRISTIAN CATHEDRAL IN WAKE OF CASTILLIAN RECONQUEST OF CITY, THAT A MOSLEM PRAYER SERVICE HAS BEEN HELD IN CORDOBA'S MOSQUE TURNED CATHEDRAL.

5. VARIOUS WORKING SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE DEALT WITH A WIDE SERIES OF TOPICS, MOSTLY RELATED TO DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS AND IMPROVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN-MOSLEM RELATIONS. CONFERENCE PRODUCED 12 CONCLUSIONS, CALLING FOR:  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 05880 191259Z

(1) GREATER ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN COOPERATION, (2) INCREASED CONTACT BETWEEN CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM RELIGIOUS SPECIALISTS; (3) GREATER INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION; (4) AN ATTEMPT TO REVISE DOCTRINAL ERRORS WHICH AFFECT BOTH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES; (5) THE PROMOTION OF ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN EXCHANGES AND OF FREQUENT PERSONAL CONTACT IN ORDER TO CONTINUE A DIALOGUE; (6) THE CELEBRATION IN CORDOBA OF ANOTHER REUNION WITHIN TWO YEARS; (7) THE PROMOTION OF

ANALOGOUS CONFERENCES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, BOTH MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN; (8) EFFORTS BY BOTH MOSLEMS AND CHRISTIANS TO SEEK TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH FAITH AMONG THE OTHER'S ADHERENTS, AND (9) THE PROMOTION OF MOSLEM- CHRISTIAN COOPERATION TO IMPEDE PERSECUTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD AND TO PROMOTE JUSTICE AND PEACE.

THE TENTH CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, ENTERS FULLY INTO THE POLITICAL REALM AND DIRECTLY TACKLES THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION WITH A MARKED BIAS FOR THE ARAB VIEWPOINT. THE TEXT OF THIS PARTICULAR CONCLUSION STATES THAT THE CONFERENCE "SUPPORTS THE JUST HUMAN AND NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, CONSIDERS THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS THEIR SOLE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE. AFFIRMS THE ARAB CHARACTER OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM AND REJECTS ALL PROPOSALS TO JUDAIZE OR INTERNATIONALIZE THE CITY, CONDEMNS THE AGGRESSIONS WHICH THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES COMMIT AGAINST THE PEOPLES AND HOLY PLACES OF MOSLEMS AND CHRISTIANS, CALLS FOR THE LIBERATION OF ALL THOSE DETAINED, SUPPORTS THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND DEMANDS LIBERATION OF ALL ARAB OCCUPIED LANDS."

7. TWO REMAINING CONCLUSIONS CALL FOR RESPECT FOR MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN MONUMENTS IN THE WORLD AS A PARTIMONY OF HUMANITY WHICH MUST BE PRESERVED, AND PRAISES ACTIONS OF GOS IN THIS FIELD, AND PROVIDES FOR FORMATION OF A COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT ON A CONTINUING BASIS THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE.

8. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN EMBOFF, ORIGINAL IDEA FOR CONVOKING CONFERENCE CAME FROM AN ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN COMMITTEE WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR SOME TIME IN SPAIN AND WHICH CONTAINS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MADRID 05880 191259Z

VARIOUS CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND CERTAIN MOSLEM REPRESENTATIVES, NOTABLY CULTURAL COUNSELOR OR EGYPTIAN EMBASSY. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT WHEN IDEA OF CONVOKING SUCH CONFERENCE IN CORDOBA WAS PRESENTED BY THIS COMMITTEE TO GOS FOR APPROVAL, GOS BECAME ENTHUSIASTIC OVER IDEA AND BECAME MOST ACTIVE PROMOTERR OF CONFERENCE. CONFERENCE THUS WAS MAINLY PROMOSTED BY GOS AND EGYPTIAN GOVT, IN COMBINATION WITH SPANISH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. THIS THUS ONE OF FEW INSTANCES IN RECENT YEARS IN WHICH GOS AND SPANISH CHURCH HAVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY COLLABORATED.

9. MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF CONFERENCE WAS THAT IT WAS USED TO PROMOTE ARAB POLITICAL LINE WITH RESPECT TO PALESTINE, INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS AND REJECTION OF EITHER INTER-

NATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM OR ITS ABSORPTION BY ISRAEL.  
GOS, IN KEEPING WITH ITS MARKED PRO-ARAB POSTURE ON  
MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE, PROBABLY BELIEVES IT WILL BE  
ABLE TO GET FURTHER MILEAGE AT SLIGHT EXPENSE FOR ITS PRO-  
ARAB POLICY BY HELPING TO SPONSOR THIS CONFERENCE IN SPAIN  
AND BY HAVING ALLOWED A STRONGLY ANTI-ISRAELI TONE IN  
THE CONFERENCE'S CONCLUSIONS. THOSE CONSLUTIONS, HOWEVER,  
DO NOT ACCORD FULLY WITH SPAIN'S OFFICIAL POLITION  
(REFLECTING THAT OF THE VATICAN) IN FAVOR OF SOME FORM OF  
INTERNATIONAL REGIME FOR THE HOLY PLACES OF JERUSALEM. IT  
ALSO UNCLEAR WHY CATHOLIC CLERGY ATTENDING ACQUIESCED IN CONFERENCE'S  
PRO-ARAB POLITICAL CONCLUSIONS.  
RIVERO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PALESTINIANS, POLICIES, MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, INFORMATION CONTROL, COMMUNIQUE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MADRID05880  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740263-0358  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740932/aaaabauo.tel  
**Line Count:** 182  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE HELD IN CORDOBA SUMMARY: ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE JUST HELD IN CORDOBA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SP, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005